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College Town Studio

With This Ring

by Jean McGhie

Technical Journalism Sophomore

THIRD finger, left hand! Something sparkling there is the symbol of dreams come true. Your future shines there on your hand.

But the past is represented by that ring, too—the symbol of customs dating back to the cave man. The beautiful engagement and wedding jewelry of today represents not only the finest of craftsmanship but thousands of years of customs and traditions.

Tradition

The double ring ceremony—a ring for both bride and bridegroom—has a long and honored history. A couple of generations ago it was popular in America, brought here particularly by Germans and Scandinavians. Then for a while it was considered old-fashioned. World War II brought it back into vogue; by the end of 1944 about 85 percent of all American bridegrooms were receiving wedding rings to match those of their brides, and custom continues.

The idea of placing the engagement and wedding rings on the third finger of the left hand is traced back to the Greeks who believed that a certain "love" vein, the *vena amoris*, ran straight from this finger to the heart. Another explanation was that the officiating minister or priest would touch three fingers and say: "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost," and then the ring went on the last finger touched.

Cut

The shape of a diamond is of extreme importance, since its brilliancy is almost entirely dependent upon its ability to refract and reflect light. The Brilliant Cut is the most common and most popular cut. All "fancy" cut stones are more expensive than "brilliant cut" of equal weight and quality, as only the finest

material is used for the fancy cut owing to the fact that flaws or imperfections would be much more in evidence as seen through the larger tables of the fancy cut.

One thing that has to be decided before you wear a diamond on your hand is the setting you would like. There are six settings which are popular among which you will have to choose. Illusion settings are of highly burnished metal set entirely around the stone which is sometimes lowered into it so that the top of the diamond is flush with the carved metal around it. It is credited with increasing the flash so much that the stone appears 25 per cent larger than it is.

The Emerald style gives a round-cut diamond a large square appearance. Four prongs of metal, spaced as for the four corners of a square, hold the stone, giving it the impression of greater size. A style called sunburst is made by splitting these prongs in two, providing eight claws to hold the stone.

Engraving

Your diamond should be designed so that a wedding ring will fit next to it, and stay snugly on your finger. The color of material should be easily matched by materials available in wedding rings, and if you want a wedding ring with sets in it, choose an engagement ring which will harmonize readily with a fancy wedding band.

While you're at the jewelry store, don't get too excited to ask about engraving. It is now the custom to identify both engagement and wedding rings by marking dates and personal inscriptions inside the rings. In the engagement ring, names are often engraved along with the date that it was given the girl. Only initials and the date usually appear in the more

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With This Ring—

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formal wedding band. The given names of the groom and bride with the date of the wedding may be used, as "John to Alice 5-17-52," or the initials of both and the date.

A beautiful sentiment used by both Jews and Christians is the word "mizpah" (meaning, "may the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another"), engraved in the wedding ring with the initials or names and date.

Cleaning

If your only qualification as to the kind of ring you want for your very own is that it be from the most wonderful man in the world and that it be shiny, you should know how to keep it a wonderful new-love shiny. Greasy water, oil, etc., will quickly coat the facets of a diamond. Then dust will collect causing even the finest diamond to lose much of its beauty and brilliance.

Diamonds may be cleaned by washing with a small brush in a hot solution of household ammonia and water. Also a pinch of soda and a little soap will help; rinse in clear water, then with alcohol and dry, preferably in warm jeweler's sawdust.

Once your ring has been chosen and placed on your finger you can see it shine there and know it's not a dream. The ring on your finger can mean to you, just as it has to women for centuries, a wonderful dream, . . . a dream come true.

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